

advanced courses, U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the NATO Peacekeeping Course.

During the past few years, Tad has overseen the deployment of thousands of troops, vehicles, and equipment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He has proven himself to be a model soldier, efficient administrator, and a dedicated officer. Colonel Davis has been an outstanding garrison commander, upholding Fort Bragg's legacy of being one of the Nation's finest military installations. As the "mayor" on post, soldiers and their families have a dedicated and devoted advocate giving 100 percent on their behalf. Whether it be issues relating to military construction, encroachment, domestic violence, saving the red-cockaded woodpecker, nurturing relations with the Fayetteville community, or force protection, to name a few, Colonel Davis has done an exemplary job of preparing for, reacting to, and handling the challenges presented to him.

I would like to speak of my friendship with and for Colonel Davis. It has been a privilege and honor to know and work with Tad and his lovely wife, Diane. They are much admired, respected, and appreciated friends. They have been involved both on and off post as integral members of the community. As Tad and Diane and their daughters, Amy and Sara, move up to the Washington, D.C. area, I want to thank them for their selfless service to Fort Bragg, the entire Nation, and wish them the absolute best in their future endeavors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEDICARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force and want to call the attention to the imposed impact that the so-called Medicare reform will have not only on the Latino community but across the Nation as well. Minority Medicare beneficiaries including Latinos are among the fastest-growing portions of this population, and they currently represent about 16 percent of the total Medicare population; but by the year 2025, Latinos are expected to account for 18 percent of the elderly population.

Yet time after time we ignore the needs of the community by creating packages that help HMOs and the pri-

vate insurance industry and not necessarily our seniors. Just look at the proposed Republican Medicare prescription drug plan. They want to strip Medicare's foundation by forcing seniors to change plans, change doctors, change pharmacies, and even change the drugs that they take every 12 months. Not only are the enrollment procedures extremely complex, now we are asking our Nation's elderly to make incredible changes that many will feel uncomfortable about making into a program that does not even make drugs affordable for our seniors; and nearly 60 percent of Latinos live with families with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level and 87 percent of the uninsured, that means working poor families, Latinos coming and trying to receive some type of health care benefit. Yet how can we even realistically say that we are attempting to improve the lives of all American seniors when the Latino elderly population, which is the fastest growing, will be the most susceptible in this privatized plan?

There are more than 214,000 Latino Medicare beneficiaries right now residing in the State of California that I represent. Fifty-five percent of Latino seniors covered under California's Medicare program report having little or no information about Medicare, including access to a toll-free Medicare number; and I say that specifically because we need to improve access to different communities in their respective languages so that we can really access and have the benefit of having all seniors participate in these programs.

Who is going to care for these beneficiaries when the Republicans impose unaffordable premiums, require spending of \$250 before they receive any help at all? In some cases in my district that would be disastrous. It would mean not being able to pay their rent or be able to buy additional medicine that they need because \$250 is a large amount for people in my district. It even prohibits, get this, the HHS Secretary, Secretary Tommy Thompson, from negotiating better prices. Hello? I thought that is what his job was there for. He was supposed to watch out for our interests.

We cannot ignore the 25 percent of Latinos compared to 10 percent of non-Latino whites who do not have supplemental insurance along with traditional Medicare, and in my district Latino seniors continuously share with me their concerns about the monthly Medicare premiums and the costs of prescription drugs. We have to make the prescription drug benefit an advantage for all Americans regardless of where they come from and regardless of what language they speak, and we need to help our country's seniors and people with disabilities navigate through an affordable system made easily available and meaningful to them and protecting their benefits. We need to protect the choices that they currently have because that is what

really matters at the end of the day. We need to provide physician choice, pharmacy availability, and prescription drug selection. Let us not strip the security from our seniors. Let us work toward a program that helps improve all the lives of our seniors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, on this 16th day of June, 2003, as the Ford Motor Company celebrates its 100th anniversary, in the city of St. Cloud, Minnesota, which is in my congressional district, the world's oldest Ford dealership, Ten Voorde Ford, is celebrating its centennial as well.

Mr. Speaker, the story behind this century-old family-owned business is one that I think Members of the House should hear, and I rise today to share it with my colleagues and recognize such a remarkable achievement. In 1899, Stephen Ten Voorde and a friend brought the first automobile to St. Cloud, Minnesota. Back then they called them horseless carriages; and this machine, a Milwaukee Steamer, was the first anyone in central Minnesota had seen. So new was the horseless carriage, that Stephen had to bring it in the old oxen trail to get it from Minneapolis. From the buzz that resulted from the presence of this machine in St. Cloud, it was clear that the horseless carriage was something more than the latest technological leap forward. It was a change in our way of life.

The American love affair with the automobile, which thrives today, began that day at least for the people in central Minnesota who were there to see Stephen motoring around in his horseless carriage. There can be no doubt that Stephen Ten Voorde recognized the opportunity of this invention. A blacksmith and bicycle shop owner, this entrepreneur clearly knew that he was on the cusp of a fantastic new age. In fact, Mr. Speaker, 3 months before the first Model A would roll off the assembly line at Henry Ford's Detroit factory, Stephen Ten Voorde became a Ford franchisee. At that time he was the second person to sign a franchise agreement, but a month before the first dealer sold out and left the business. So today 100 years afterwards, Ten Voorde Ford is the oldest Ford dealership in the world.

The past 100 years have not always been easy for this family-run business. As the country has experienced bumps along the way, this family-run business has also run into challenges. Yet, Mr. Speaker, in the face of wars and the Great Depression, when people just were not buying cars, this business has overcome the challenges. Stephen Ten Voorde passed on the business to his son Cy in 1948 and Cy passed on the